

Easy Lessons in AUCTION BRIDGE

New Series by WYNNE FERGUSON
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It has often been pointed out in these articles that one of the best ways to learn auction is to study examples of "what not to do" either in the bidding or play. The other night the writer was playing at one of the well known New York card clubs, supposedly with high-grade players, and yet observed some very fine examples of "what not to do." For example:

Hearts—K, 7, 6
Clubs—K, J, 9, 8, 4
Diamonds—K, 10, 8, 6, 5
Spades—none

Y
A Z B

No score, first game. Z dealt and bid one no-trump. A passed, Y bid two spades and B and Z passed. Here's where A started to give a fine exhibition of "what not to do." He didn't stop to figure that his hand was worth probably three tricks if spades were trumps, so that if his partner could take only one trick they would save the game. He gally bid three clubs, which Y doubled. B and Z passed and A now decided to try three diamonds. This also was doubled and the contract was set for 400 points. Study this hand, the bidding and the score, and learn "what not to do" under similar circumstances.

Here's another hand where a fairly good player fell down:

Y
A Z B

Hearts—6
Clubs—K, Q, 9, 8
Diamonds—7
Spades—A, Q, J, 9, 7, 6, 2

No score, rubber game. Z dealt and bid four spades (a fine preemptive bid, by the way). A doubled, Y passed and B bid five hearts. Z and A now passed and Y doubled. When all passed, what should Z have opened? Think this over and compare notes with analysts that will be given in the next article.

The same player had a somewhat similar problem a few hours later. He also fell down on this hand, so let's see what our readers will do. It's a fine example of "what not to do."

Y
A Z B

Hearts—5
Clubs—9, 8, 6, 3
Diamonds—7, 6, 2
Spades—A, K, 8, 7, 6

No score, rubber game. Z dealt and bid four hearts. A bid five diamonds and all passed. Y opened the king of spades and B's hand, the dummy's in this instance, was placed on the table. Z played the three of spades and A the five. What should Y now play and why? Reason this out and try not to do what Y did.

In the following hand the most inexcusable mistake of the evening was made:

Y
A Z B

Hearts—K, Q, 9, 8, 4
Clubs—A, 4
Diamonds—J, 7, 6, 2
Spades—9, 5

No score, first game. Z dealt and bid one heart, A and Y passed and B bid one spade. Z and A passed and Y bid two hearts. The final bid was four spades due to the fact that Y raised the heart bid twice more. He also doubled four spades. What should Z open? Before you decide, think it over carefully and don't make the mistake Z did. His opening was a fine example of "what not to do."

Problem No. 4
Hearts—A, 10, 2
Clubs—none
Diamonds—5, 3
Spades—K, 8, 2

Y
A Z B

Hearts—Q, J
Clubs—K, 9, 3
Spades—6
Diamonds—6, 4

Clubs are trump and Z is in the lead. How can YZ win five of the eight tricks against any defense?

Answer to Problem No. 4
Z should lead the four of hearts and Y win the trick with the ace. Y should then lead the deuce of spades, which Z should trump with the deuce of clubs. Z should then lead the king of diamonds and follow with the deuce of diamonds, which trick A must win. Whatever A now leads, YZ must win two trump tricks. If A leads a diamond or a spade Z trumps and leads the eight of hearts. His queen of clubs must now make. If A should lead a trump, Z must still win five of the eight tricks against any defense. It should be noted that the lead of the king of diamonds by Z at trick one and the lead of the deuce of diamonds at trick two is a loser. A should lead the nine of hearts, which Y must win. The lead by Y of a heart or a spade is a loser. Played in this way, YZ must lose four tricks. It should also be noted that Z may first play the king of diamonds and then lead the four of hearts and let Y lead the deuce of spades. When he trumps the spade Z should then lead the deuce of diamonds, obtaining the same result as in the correct solution given. It is a tricky problem and should be carefully noted. All of the variations given should be played out.

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